

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the Application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 5-6, 8, 12, 14, 16-17 and 18-20.

Claim amendments

This response amends Claims 1, 6, 11-12 and 15-16 to clarify the scope of the invention as discussed below. Support for some of these amendments can, for example, be found in Figures 2D, 3C and 4D and the corresponding text in the specification. No new matter has been entered.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Austin (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,303) and further in view of Fisher (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0212966). Claims 2 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Austin and further in view of Lian (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0176935).

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 5-6, 8, 12, 14, 16-17 and 18-20. Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 9-11 and 13 and disagree that these claims are obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,590,303, U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0212966, and U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0176935. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have amended Claim 1, 11 and 15 to include limitations found in Claims 6, 12 and 16 found patentable by the Examiner in the Office Action, expressly reserving the right to present these or any other rejected claims or claims directed to other disclosed subject matter in a future divisional or continuation application.

Conclusion

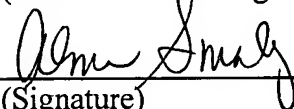
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendments
Commissioner for Patents POB 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on


November 30, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Alma Smalling
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

November 30, 2005
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Popa
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,010
LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036
(323) 934-2300

Encls: Postcard